

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Original) In the medical treatment of sleep apnea syndrome, the method of treatment comprised of applying to frontal portions of a patient's neck a pressure sufficiently less than ambient pressure to distend adjacent neck tissue in a manner effective for alleviating obstruction of the patient's airway in sleep.
2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, including the additional step of simultaneously applying an elevated pressure greater than the first mentioned said pressure within the patient's airway.
3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said elevated pressure is of a magnitude greater than ambient atmospheric pressure.

Claims 4-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method of treating upper airway disorders, comprising: distending frontal portions of a patient's neck in a manner effective for alleviating obstruction of the patient's airway by applying a distending force on such a patient's neck tissue, wherein the distending force is applied on a surface of such a patient's neck in a direction extending from an interior to an exterior of such a patient such that the patient's neck tissue is moved generally away from an interior of such a patient perpendicular to a surface on which the distending force is applied.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 7, including the additional step of simultaneously applying an elevated pressure within the patient's airway.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said elevated pressure is of a magnitude greater than ambient atmospheric pressure.